

ABAC Meeting Presentation

02-17-21

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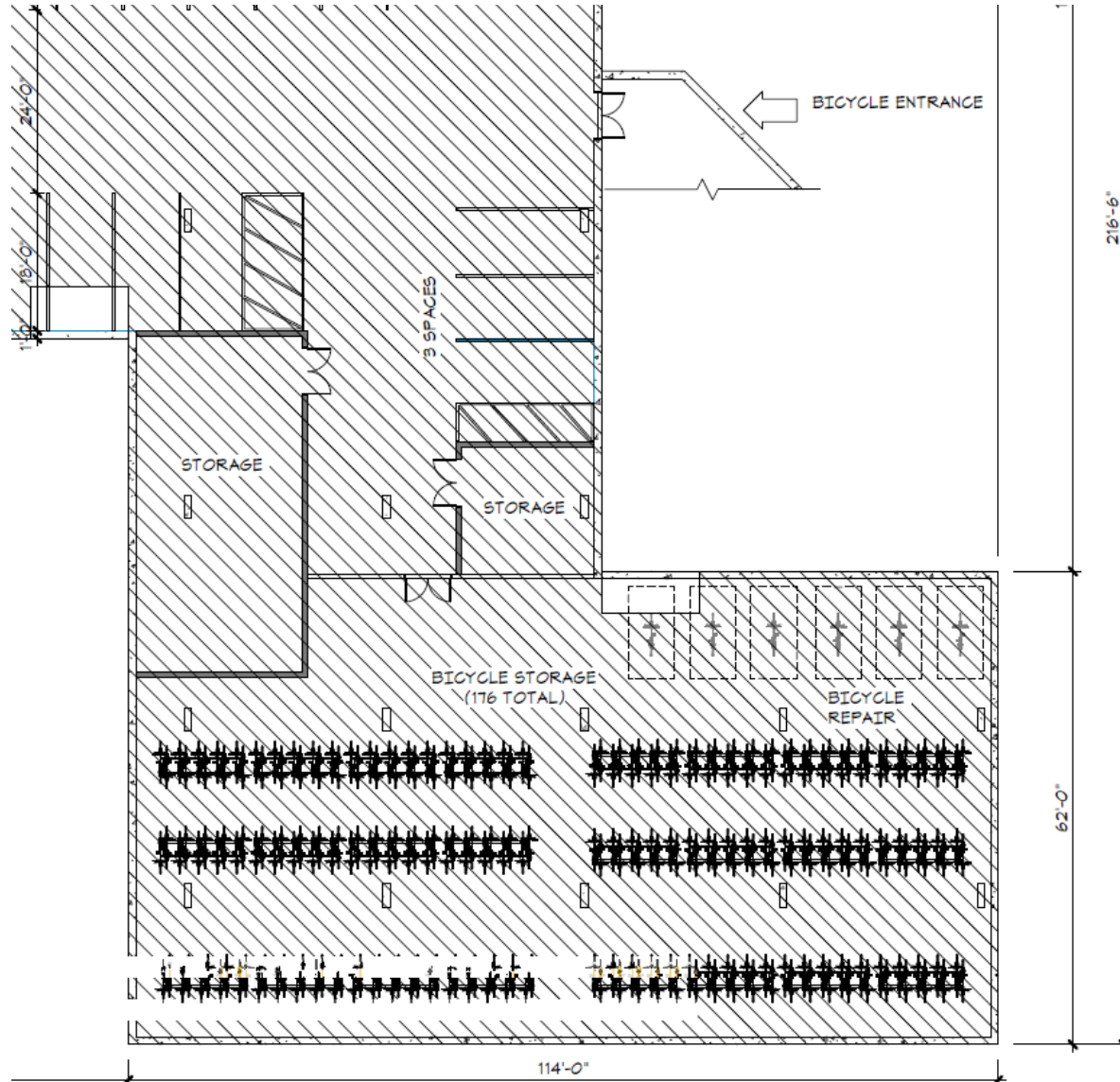
MBTA Forging Ahead Initiative

- Further details of changes have been finalized
- Impacts on Arlington:
 - Bus:
 - Route 80 (Arlington Center to Lechmere Station) will not be suspended, but will experience weekday and Saturday schedule changes throughout the day
 - Route 67 (Turkey Hill to Alewife Station) will only provide weekday service between 6:00 AM and 9:30 AM and 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM
 - Route 77 (Arlington Heights to Harvard Station) will experience weekday, Saturday, and Sunday frequency decreases throughout the day.
 - Suspend Route 79
 - Combine Routes 62 & 76 and 78 & 84
 - Reduced frequency on Red Line
 - Reduced hours on Commuter Rail, no weekend service
- Bus changes to go into effect March 14, 2021
- Public comments on Environmental Notification Form (ENF) due March 2, 2021
 - [The ENF may be reviewed on the Forging Ahead Environmental Review page.](#)
- Town news item:
<https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/10891/16>

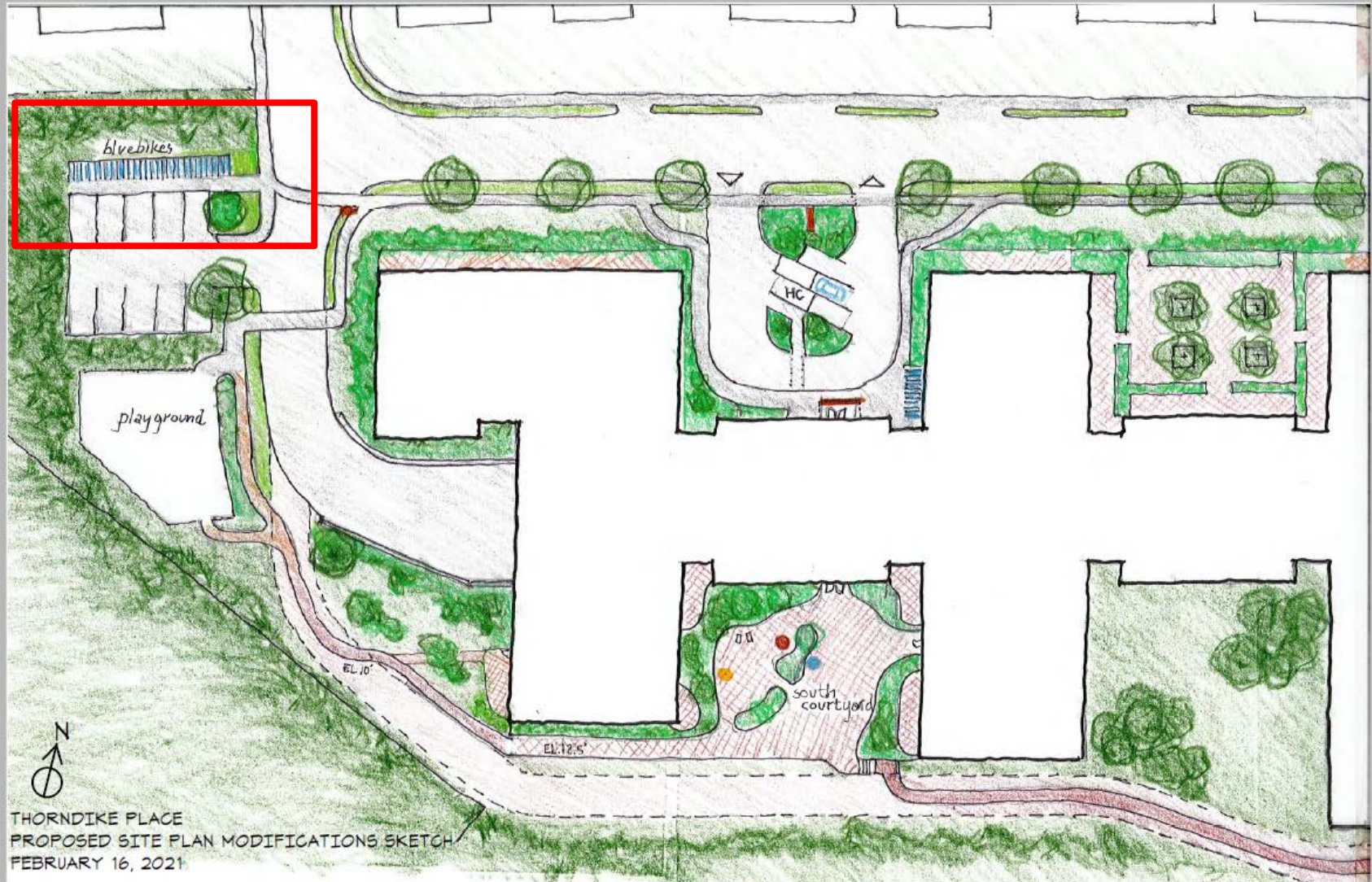
Thorndike Place

- Proposed Plan revisions:
 - Reduce car parking to 193 spaces (down from 239)
 - Increase bike parking to 176 spaces (up from 144)
 - Bicycle repair area
 - Bluebikes station on site with 23 docks planned
- Documents:
 - <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/town-governance/boards-and-committees/zoning-board-of-appeals/thorndike-place-comprehensive-permit>
- ZBA will make final decision on comprehensive permit in April

Thorndike Place - Proposed



Thorndike Place - Proposed

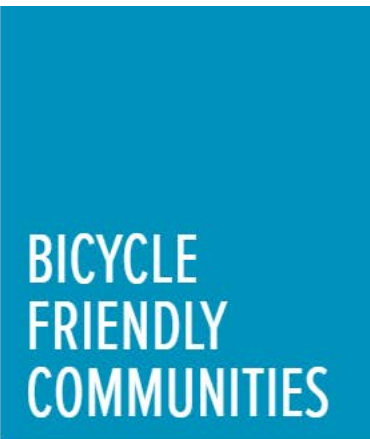


Bike Friendly Community Application

- BFC Application submitted February 10
- Awards to be announced in May 2021
- Thanks to: Phil Goff, ABAC, Town staff
 - Contact me for copy of application



Ride in San Luis Obispo, Calif. Photo by Leslie Bloom.



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Bluebikes Update

- Possible new locations
 - Brigham Square by Bikeway (under discussion) (recommended by ABAC)
 - Mass Ave at Whole Foods (need to do outreach)
- Two stations will be possible with Boston MPO funding later this year or earlier
- More information on spring return of on-street stations next meeting



CONNECT
Arlington
SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DRAFT

January 2021



Connect Arlington

- **The Connect Arlington Sustainable Transportation Plan** is a 20-year strategy to ensure that all Arlingtonians, workers, business owners and visitors are provided a safe, reliable, multimodal transportation network that meets the needs of all people of all ages and abilities.
- As a sustainable transportation plan, the strategy must address three key elements:
 - 1) Providing all people with a well maintained, accessible transportation network of choice - multiple ways to accomplish a trip
 - 2) Managing auto congestion through providing reliable alternatives to the car to ensure people and goods are able to move about with minimal trip delays (and enhance productivity).
 - 3) Minimizing negative transportation impacts on the environment, primarily through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

Connect Arlington

VISION STATEMENT

In 20 years, Arlington is a community that offers a transportation network that provides:

- **Safe facilities for all users**, no matter how they travel.
- **Mobility options that meet the needs for diverse populations** and people of all genders, ages and abilities.
- **A pedestrian first, walk-friendly environment.**
- **A low-stress bicycle network** connecting people throughout Arlington on dedicated, comfortable facilities.
- **A transit rich environment** with more local and regional options, improved connections, reduced travel times and enhanced user comfort for all who live, work, and visit Arlington.
- **A system that reduces the climate impacts from travel in Arlington** through sustainable roadway design and incentivizing reduction in drive-alone trips.
- **Infrastructure and policies to support the local economy** including efficient movement of goods and services.

CONNECT ARLINGTON RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL: SAFE FACILITIES FOR ALL PEOPLE

There are on average over 550 crashes per year in Arlington involving vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. The Town is committed to doing more to eliminate all severe injuries and fatalities on its streets. Ensuring that people not only feel, but are safe, while walking around in paramount.

STRATEGIES:

- **Adopt a Vision Zero policy** to ensure streets are designed in a manner that prioritizes safety for all users, with a goal of eliminating traffic deaths and injuries through a holistic approach to reducing roadway conflicts.
- **Ensure all roadway design projects adhere to the Town's adopted Complete Streets policy** to ensure that all roadway projects are designed for all users – not just cars.
- **Update the Town's Complete Streets Prioritization Plan to align with Connect Arlington priorities** and projects eligible to receive grant implementation (i.e., construction) funding from the State.
- **Prioritize investments that improve safety at intersections and along road segments with the greatest user conflicts** – especially locations where multiple crashes occur – to enhance safety for all users, no matter their mode of travel.
- **Revise and implement recommended plan to reconfigure Mass Ave. in Arlington Center to enhance safety by reducing conflicts.**
- **Address safety at roadway intersections in Arlington with oblique angles, poor sight distances and confusing operations** to reduce user conflicts and potential crashes.
- **Develop educational programs that promote safe travel behaviors by ALL users.**
- **Continue to implement initiatives that enhance safety to and from schools and community facilities including Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) projects and programs and Arlington's ADA Transition Plan infrastructure Improvements.**

GOAL: MOBILITY OPTIONS FOR ALL

An integrated transportation network with multiple mobility options must be prioritized to ensure that Arlington's residents, workers and visitors of all ages, capabilities and incomes are able to equitably move to, from, within and through Arlington. To provide mobility options for all will require a comprehensive, coordinated strategy.

STRATEGIES:

- **Continue to allocate funding to implement transportation improvement projects identified in the Town's recently updated Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition Plan** including sidewalk and access improvements (ramps, ADA parking, van parking) at schools, public buildings, recreation facilities and more.
- **Continue to develop and implement Safe Routes to School (SRTS) projects** - programs and infrastructure improvements - that aim to provide safe transportation networks for children to walk and bike from their homes to their schools.
- **Explore opportunities to improve access to and increase capacity, safety, and on the Minuteman Bikeway** to ensure that it remains a comfortable active transportation facility for all active transportation users – recreational or commuter – including bicyclists, runners and walkers.
- **Promote car-free or car-light living by increasing and promoting shared transportation services in Arlington (including free or subsidized memberships) including car-share, bike-share and new options as they become available.**
- **Develop policies and guidelines (design and user guidelines) that promote the safe use of emerging mobility devices and services including e-bikes, scooters, skateboards and other micro mobility options** to increase mobility options in a way that all roadway users are aware of how to safely use them, where to use them, and where not to use them.
- **Expand transit options to Arlington residents and workers through local shared transportation programs and services** to provide enhanced, efficient connectivity to and from neighborhoods not proximate to MBTA services, including through locally funded transit services and partnerships with mobility providers (e.g., micro-transit) and neighboring communities.

GOAL: A LOW-STRESS BICYCLE ENVIRONMENT

CONNECTING PEOPLE IN ALL AREAS OF ARLINGTON ON DEDICATED, COMFORTABLE FACILITIES

Developing a robust, interconnected network of dedicated bicycle facilities and amenities will make bicycling a safe, comfortable and practical option – a preferred choice - for more of Arlington's residents, workers and visitors, no matter their comfort level – from beginner to experienced. More bicycling will also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide health benefits to users.

While a comprehensive Bike Master Plan should be considered to develop a truly comprehensive strategy, this plan recommends the below initiatives to achieving a low-stress bicycling network.

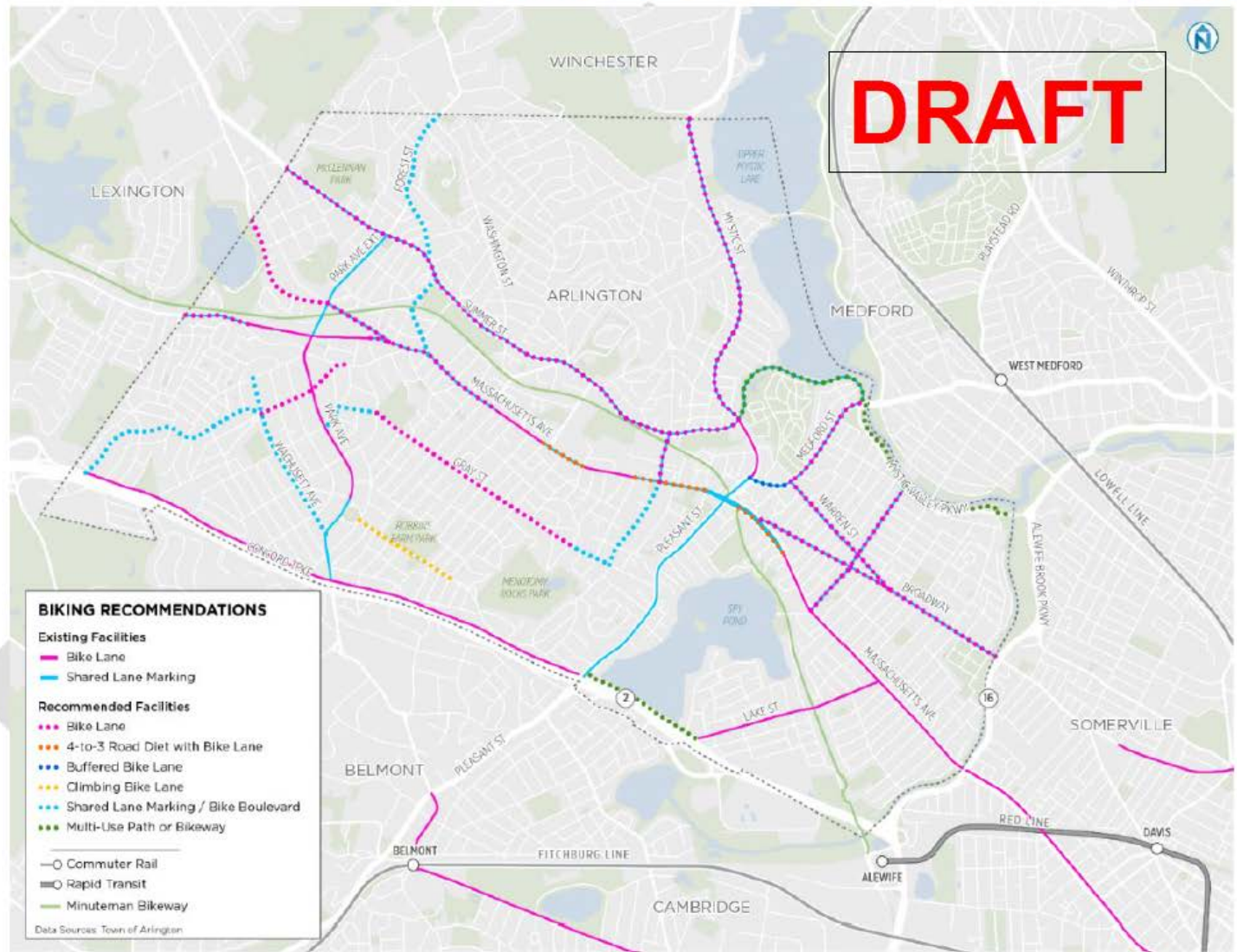
STRATEGIES:

- **Prioritize new bicycle facilities along corridors currently designated as Arlington's "lane-sharing network" including:**
 - Complete the bicycle lane network along all of Mass Ave.
 - Prioritizing projects that connect to existing bicycle facilities in high conflict areas as to create a safe, contiguous bicycle lane network.
 - Prioritize corridors that provide safe facilities to schools and other community facilities.
 - Construct bike lanes on corridors that connect Arlington residents and workers more efficiently to regional transit.
 - Work with neighboring cities and towns to build bike facilities that connect to those in Arlington to enhance regional bicycle connectivity.
- **Establish dedicated or preferred bike routes ("bike boulevards")** - low-traffic streets that provide safer bicycle travel parallel to high traffic roadways - on roadways that connect to neighborhoods and schools.
- **Add additional and upgrade existing bicycle parking along commercial corridors and at public facilities** to encourage more to choose a bicycle over a car trip because they know their bicycles can be parked easily and locked up safely.
- **Study potential to redesign high conflict intersections and rotaries/roundabouts to provide dedicated bicycle lanes** to encourage more bicycling by providing improved rider safety and comfort.

RECOMMENDED BICYCLE NETWORK

Developing a highly connected network of dedicated, preferably separated bicycle lanes and facilities is a priority recommendation of Connect Arlington.

Building out a town-wide network would provide safer, more comfortable and convenient facilities to encourage bicyclists of varying levels of experience and comfort to move around, reducing the need or preference to drive.



- **Reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips and emissions** by promoting mode shift from single-occupancy vehicle trips to alternatives like walking, biking, carpooling and transit use, and through coordinated land use and transportation planning (e.g., mixed-use development near transit and jobs).
- **Rethink the curb and design it to support competing users and needs more effectively**, including designating zones for pick-up and drop-off activity, zones for increased service and delivery needs, and repurposing on-street parking areas for other modes including bus and bicycle travel, or recreation (e.g., parklets).

TRACKING PROGRESS AND SUCCESS

METRICS	CRASHES	MODE SHARE	TRAVEL TIME	BIKE LANE MILES	SIDEWALK INVESTMENTS
METRICS	Annual number of crashes in Arlington to track progress of enhancing safety.	Based on Arlington Annual Survey, how Arlington residents get around for work and other trips.	Surveys of Arlington commutes and other trips to track the value of infrastructure and technological improvements to shorten trip times.	Track total linear mileage of bicycle lanes to see how much progress has occurred to develop town-wide network.	Track total investment in sidewalks over to measure progress.
BASELINE	2020 Crashes	2020 Mode Share	2020 Avg Trip Time	2020 Total Mileage	2020 square feet of sidewalk constructed/repared
YEAR TRACKED	# crashes	Yearly Mode Share	Yearly Trip Time	Completed in Year	Completed in Year
TARGET	Zero	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

DRAFT. FINAL METRICS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT

MassTrails Grant

- Applied for \$80,000 from MassTrails to study possible trail connection between Mystic River Path and Minuteman Bikeway
- 17 support letters, including: Arlington Town Manager, ABAC & TAC, Mystic River Watershed Association, City of Medford & advocacy groups, MAPC, MassDOT
 - Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation committing \$10,000 as part of match
- Award notification late spring or early summer

Mystic River Path to Minuteman Bikeway 2021 MassTrails Grant Application - Arlington Project Overview

